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Sandia Researchers Win 7 Awards

Journal Staff Report

Sandia National Laboratories researchers this year collected seven R&D 100 awards, occasionally referred to as the Nobel Prizes for technology, the lab said in a news release.

The annual contest, sponsored by the Chicago-based trade magazine R&D Magazine, uses technical experts to help determine the best applied new technologies. One hundred winners are chosen from an international pool of contestants from universities, private corporations and government labs.

According to the news release, in the 40 years the awards have been given, the winners have included Polacolor film (1963), the automated teller machine (1973), the fax machine (1975), the printer (1986), the Nicoderm antismoking patch and HDTV (1998).

The magazine is looking for "demonstrable technological significance compared with competing products and technologies," Sandia said. Notable properties include smaller size, more speed, greater efficiency and "higher environmental consciousness."

Winners have been chosen in the fields of analytical instruments and processes, electronics, testing and measurement, software, environmental technology, and advanced biomedical devices and systems.

Winners will be honored at a banquet in October at Chicago's Navy Pier.

Here are brief descriptions of the seven winning Sandia technologies:

SnifferStar: Mounts on a drone aircraft for remote surveillance of a battlefield where plumes or clouds are present. The detector's purpose is to warn soldiers that chemical weapons are on the battlefield.

Extreme Ultraviolet Lithography Full-field Step-Scan System: More than 50 Sandians and collaborators from Lawrence Livermore and Lawrence Berkeley national laboratories were honored for this technological advance that will lead to improvements in the speed and memory of computer systems.

Acoustic telemetry technology: This uses the well-drilling tubing of an oil or gas well as the data transmission medium and sound waves

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as the carrier for communication with the drill bit. Among the advantages over present techniques are a 10-fold improvement in data rates and no blocking of the fluid flow path.

LEAMS (Low Emissions Atmospheric Metering Separator): It is a family of atmospheric geothermal separators used in the development of geothermal power. The primary function of the LEAMS is to safely contain and clean the atmospheric vented steam of polluting solids, liquids and noxious gases.

MEMS-Based Adaptive Optics Phoropter: Sandia contributed to the optomechanical design and integration of a compact, transportable adaptive o system that improves upon devices now used in optometrists' offices.

ETO: Mitigating electrical network problems: A fast-response semiconductor d allows a utility to rapidly convert energy stored in a DC device into AC power and minimize the negative effects of lightning strikes and power-failure interruptions electrical devices.

Isolated Cast-in-Place Microvalves: Microvalves that allow fluids to be shuttled easily in microfluidic chips as they are on a traditional laboratory benchtop. These valves enable microscale systems to combine high-voltage and high-pressure analy or synthetic techniques.

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